

# WEATHER.

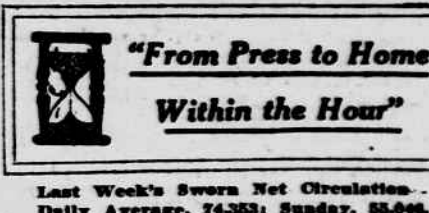
Increasing cloudiness, followed by showers late tonight and Wednesday; temperature tonight, color Wednesday, temperature past twenty-four hours: High, 61, at 4 p.m. yesterday; low, 36, at 8 a.m. today.

For full report see page 15.

CLOSING NEW YORK STOCKS PAGE 15.

No. 19,872.

WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1915—EIGHTEEN PAGES.



ONE CENT.

## REPORT TO SENATE ON DISTRICT BILL

Conferees Fail to Agree on Rider Abolishing Half-and-Half System.

## TWO OTHER AMENDMENTS MEET WITH OBJECTIONS

Provision in Bill Giving Commissioners Authority to Appoint Board of Education.

The conference report on the District appropriation bill, showing an agreement between the two houses on all except three items in the bill, was submitted to the Senate today by Senator John Walter Smith of Maryland. Senator Smith urged the adoption of the report so that the House might have an early opportunity to act on it also.

Objection to the immediate consideration of the report was made by Senator Root of New York and Senator Thomas of Colorado, and the report was ordered to be printed and will come up later.

The Senate conferees succeeded in having the item for \$100,000 for the maintenance of the Eastern High School retained in the bill. They also succeeded in having an item of \$50,000 for the equipment of the new Eastern High School retained in the bill, striking out, however, the language "to be immediately available."

An amendment for an eight-room addition to the Powell School, costing \$50,000, was agreed to.

A Senate amendment providing that hereafter all pupils whose parents are employed on the District of Columbia shall be exempt from the payment of tuition in the District schools was agreed to.

Appointment of Board of Education.

The conferees inserted a provision that hereafter the members of the board of education shall be appointed by the District Commissioners instead of by the District Supreme Court.

The House conferees agreed to the Senate amendment appropriating \$100,000 for the maintenance of the Eastern High School for the blind, to be used by the Columbia Polytechnic Institute, also for the blind. The Senate conferees agreed to the amendment.

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Compromise Effected.

The conferees agreed to a compromise of \$125,000 for the purchase and repair of furniture, tools, materials and books to be used in connection with manual training.

The conferees threw out a Senate amendment for \$2,000 for the employment of janitors for the District of Columbia under the head of schools. They also struck out a Senate amendment giving the District of Columbia authority to close public areas which may be wholly within the boundaries of any site purchased for the Eastern High School.

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## SAYS EVELYN CROSS TRAGIC ACCIDENT

President Is Informed Captain Did Not Follow Safe Course Laid Out for Him.

## OFFICIALS HERE FEAR FOR SAFETY OF CREW

Civil Suit for Damages by Owners and United States Insurance Bureau Only Recourse.

President Wilson views the recent sinking of the American steamer Evelyn in the North sea as a tragic accident, he told callers today, and has been unofficially informed that Captain Wilson was not following a safe course laid out for him. He added that warnings had been given that mines were planted in the area in which the Evelyn was sunk.

The President indicated he has not yet determined whether the report will be sent to the recent notes from Germany and Great Britain on the war zone and the use of the American flag. He said, however, there was nothing in the German or English notes which would cause the United States to change its position. He indicated that the entire subject still was under consideration.

The sinking of the Evelyn and the international situation generally were discussed at the Cabinet meeting which was the briefest in months. It was indicated that no further action would be taken until further details were obtained and that the administration saw nothing in the incident liable to cause international complications.

It was said to be practically certain that no replies will be sent to the latest British and German notes.

Awaits News From Crew.

Officials of the Washington government today awaited with some anxiety word as to the fate of thirteen of the crew of the Evelyn who were reported to have rowed for the Holland coast after the vessel struck. The only official word which had been received was from the American consul at Bremen, who on Sunday night reported the rescue of the crew.

Officials heard today through unofficial sources that only the captain and two crew members were rescued. The rest of the crew, except one, who died from exposure, were safe in a hospital at Bremen having following their rescue by a Dutch pilot ship.

Although the cause of the disaster now being made by representatives of the American government also is awaited here. Pending such information, however, the Washington government will not take any action.

Secretary Bryan called to American Minister Henry Van Dyke at The Hague, the same message he previously had sent to Ambassadors Page and Gerard, at London and Berlin, respectively, asking that every care be extended to the missing crew.

Only Civil Suit Likely.

It was conceded in official quarters that if the nationality of the mine were not determined, and if no proof were obtained to show whether official notice had been given, a civil suit would be the only recourse.

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## HOW TO MEASURE CITY TAX BURDENS

Done Accurately Only by Comparing Dollars Actually Paid in Tax Levies.

## CENSUS DISCREDITS PROUTY'S METHOD

Reported Relation of Assessed to True Value Worthless as Factor in Measuring Comparative Tax Burdens.

NO. II.

Editorial Correspondence of The Star.

BY THEODORE W. NOYES.

An impartial commission, if one is created, can do the capital and the nation good service by deciding the fairest and most accurate method of measuring the comparative tax-burdens of cities. Washington urges that the dollars of tax-money actually paid, shown in total census tax-levies and especially in the per capita tax-levy, furnish the only fair and approximately accurate basis of measurement and comparison.

Representative Prouty and the anti-District faction following his lead contend that comparative tax-burdens are accurately measured by accepting as true the census-reported relations of assessed to actual value in the different cities and by applying this ratio to the tax-rate.

By the first method of comparison Washington's tax-burden is heavier than that of the vast majority of American cities, and measures up fairly with that imposed upon cities approximating the capital in population. Owing to the capital's peculiar disabilities this burden is heavier than in any other American city.

By the second method Washington's tax-burden is figured out as among the lightest of all American cities, and by the injection of some statistical factors outside the census which Washington considers irrelevant, Mr. Prouty proclaims that the capital's tax-burden is only a little more than one-half that of the average American city.

Congress directly, or indirectly by commission or joint committee, is petitioned to analyze these two methods of comparison and to decide which is fair and approximately accurate, and which is unsound and misleading.

Washington protests to Congress that it is grossly unjust to the capital to accept the Prouty method of comparison and to reject the per capita tax-levy method without the thoughtful consideration which this vital issue deserves.

Our method of comparison measures the tax-burden by the dollars of tax-money actually paid and divides the burden per capita among those who have paid it.

The Prouty method assumes that unworn statements from American cities concerning the relation of assessed to actual value are true, and that if the law provides for full valuation the property is assessed for taxation at 100% of its actual market value. But this assumption is false, and everybody knows that it is false. The census bulletins expose its falsity; municipal officials almost everywhere confess it.

The slightest unbiased examination will convince any fair-minded investigator that the Prouty method of comparison, on account of the presence of this factor of unreliability and inaccuracy, must be discredited as absolutely worthless.

The figures on which both methods of comparison are based are taken from the census bulletins concerning American cities. Let Congress consider the testimony on this issue given by the census authorities. Both sets of figures are from the census; let the census decide which of its figures lead to truth and which to error.

Testimony of Census Authorities. Census bulletin No. 65 (1890) says: "In comparing the rates of taxation between the several places it should be borne in mind that the relation of the assessed valuation to the true valuation varies greatly and what is apparently a high rate of taxation may be owing not to an excessive levy, but to the low value placed upon the property assessed, requiring the rate to be correspondingly high in order to yield the desired revenue. It would seem therefore that the taxation per capita represents more nearly the relative burdens imposed by the tax levy."

In addition to the actual figures of tax rate, assessment and tax levy, the census in recent years has collected the opinions, estimates, guesses or municipal officials as to the true value of property, and has then figured out what the tax rate would be on the full value of property, if these estimates



SHADE OF G. W.—NOW FOR ANOTHER YEAR'S REST!

## TENSE FEELING NOW PREVAILS AMONG PEOPLE OF HOLLAND

Nervous Over Possible Results of German Blockade—Movement of Troops to Frontier Continues.

THE HAGUE, via London, February 23.—A tense undercurrent of feeling has been running through all classes in Holland for the past two or three days. It is attributed to public concern, owing to Germany's action in not replying to the Dutch note of protest concerning the North sea war zone and nervousness as to what might result from the German blockade and submarine activity, which possibly might produce an untoward incident at any moment.

Although vessels belonging to other neutral states have suffered, Dutch ships up to the present have escaped damage, but many seamen are demanding increased wages owing to the risks. Some of the men decline to sail, and have left their ships, especially those bound for England. Numbers of passengers for the Dutch East Indies have decided to pass through Germany to Genoa in order to take ship there.

Even the Dutch fishing boats, by government order, are to be painted in the national colors, while their crews have been advised to carry with them evidence of their nationality. The continued movements of troops toward the various frontier points and the constant work of military engineers on inundation works have increased the uneasiness of the people. The newspapers generally refrain from commenting on the situation.

Navajo Police on Way.

Reinforcements are expected from Monticello and twenty-five Navajo police are en route to Bluff from Ship Rock Indian agency, New Mexico. It is believed that the Indians will attempt to escape through the hills, according to advice from Bluff and the leaders of the posse are anxious for reinforcements in order that the rest of the Indians may be captured.

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah, February 23.—A message just received from Bluff, Utah, today, where posses of whites are engaged in a battle with Plute Indians. In the fighting, which began Sunday, five Indians and one white man have been killed, one white man wounded, and six Indians taken prisoner. It is said desultory fighting continued all night within a half mile of Bluff, and that the huts of Tee-Ne-Gat, leader of the Indians, who is wanted for murder, have been burned.

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## TRADE COMMISSION IS UNDER SCRUTINY

Senators to Inquire Closely Into Qualifications of the President's Nominees.

## SNUB TO REPUBLICANS SUBJECT OF COMMENT

Senator Newlands Predicts Favorable Report From Committee and Hopes for Early Confirmation.

The President's appointments to the new federal trade commission, sent to the Senate yesterday, will receive the closest kind of scrutiny by senators before their confirmation is permitted. Republican senators today indicated that they thought the appointments "weak." They contended, too, that the President had "burglarized" the names of the commission from the ranks of the bull moose party for minority members of the commission and in ignoring the republicans entirely. The law provides that not more than three of the members of the commission shall be members of the same party. Three democrats have been appointed and two progressives.

"The President may think that he is justified in selecting the two minority members of the commission from the bull moose party," said Senator Sherman of Illinois today. "But the description of 'bull moose' by a small boy in Illinois pretty well describes the bull moose party right now—there ain't none."

Criticism of Hurley.

Senator Sherman not long ago criticized Edwin N. Hurley of Chicago, one of the democrats appointed to the commission, on the floor of the Senate, charging that Hurley was a member of the "insidious lobby" said to be operating in Washington at the time the tariff bill was under consideration. He has also contended that Hurley was a partisan of Roger Sullivan in Illinois. But Senator Sherman said today that he had so far found no evidence of opposition to the President's appointments to the commission among the democrats.

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Predicts Favorable Report.

Senator Newlands, chairman of the interstate commerce committee of the Senate, to which the nominations have been referred, said that he thought the nominations would be reported favorably after consideration in the few remaining days of the session.

Consideration was begun today by the committee of the nominees for the commission. It was apparent at the outset that the committee would not go into qualifications of the nominees would be demanded and the list was referred to a subcommittee to report not later than Saturday. The subcommittee consists of Senators Pomeroy, Robinson, Stanford, Townsend and La Follette.

Some of the senators expressed strong doubt that confirmation could be had before March 4 in view of the vast amount of work which the Senate has to do before adjournment in the few remaining days of the session. Whether the President would undertake to accept the nominations should the Senate fail to act upon the nominations was a matter of conjecture, at the Capitol.

Will Stand by His Nominees.

President Wilson met rumblings of a Senate fight on his nomination for the new federal trade commission here today. He stood by the nominees, as he intended to stand by them. W. H. Parry of Seattle, Wash., the President said, had been appointed as a republican. Parry, however, had been described as progressive republican.

GERMANY CALLS TROOPS.

Landsturm Now in Neutral Countries Ordered to Join Colors.

GENEVA, via Paris, February 23.—Germans up to the age of twenty-eight eligible for service with the landsturm troops have been recalled from Switzerland and it is reported here that also been directed to join the colors not later than March 1. The landsturm troops are to be sent to the front under the command of the German high command.

LOSES SUIT FOR FEE.

Supreme Court Affirms Decision Denying Gleason's Charges.

John R. Gleason, a New York lawyer, today lost his suit in the Supreme Court of the United States for \$50,000 damages for defamation of character against the late Senator Charles F. McNary of Oregon.

The court held that services of a lawyer are not property, within the meaning of the bankruptcy law which provides a bankrupt's property is not subject to the claims of his creditors. The court also held that the services of a lawyer are not property, within the meaning of the bankruptcy law which provides a bankrupt's property is not subject to the claims of his creditors.

DAY IN CONGRESS.

Senate.

Met at 11 a.m.

Debate was resumed on the army bill. The interstate commerce committee began work on nominations to the federal trade commission.

The conference committee on the administration ship bill was called to meet tonight.

House.

Met at 11 a.m.

Debate was continued on the fortifications bill.

## GERMAN OFFENSIVE BROUGHT TO A HALT,

RUSSIANS DECLARE Czar's Tenth Army at Bay After Defeat in East Prussia.

## AUSTRIANS REPORTED TO BE IN GRAVE DANGER

Division Repulsed Near Kraane, Checking Enemy's Movements, Says Petrograd.

## FIGHTING GOES ON IN NORTH

Slavs Confident Present Defense Line Cannot Be Penetrated—Loss of Corps Not Regarded as Catastrophe.

PETROGRAD, February 23, via London.—Making claim to marked successes in the Carpathians and to having defeated the German offensive campaign in the north, which "never emerged from its period of preparation," Russian staff officers took an optimistic view today of the outlook along the whole front.

The Russian 10th Army, which, according to an official report by Grand Duke Nicholas, the Russian commander-in-chief in the field, lost one of its corps in the last big battle in East Prussia, now stands at bay along the line of the Narew, Bobr and Niemen rivers within Russian territory.

Advance Is Stopped.

The German advance from East Prussia has been stopped, owing largely to the flooding of rivers and the melting of snow, which has retarded the advance of the German forces. The Bobr river has been thwarted. A new battle line has thus been formed in the north, along which there is uninterrupted fighting.

The district of Lomza, which the Russians repulsed an Austrian division, thus putting a check on the movement of the Austro-German forces which were attempting to concentrate at Stanislaw.

Situation in Poland.

The situation in northern Poland, however, is regarded as of greatest immediate importance. The position of the Germans near Osovetz is considered critical, since they are under attack from the heavy guns of the fortress and are unable to bring up their own heavy artillery, owing to the poor roads.

A stubborn fight on the road to Lomza was won by the Russians, with the result that the important point of Edwahn still remains in their hands. The only location in that general vicinity still in dispute is Pranyany, fifty miles from Lomza. According to Russian staff officers the Germans have gathered a large force near this point and are expected to attempt an advance.

German Formations.

Along the whole front the Germans have been proceeding in six separate groups—the first in the direction of Eydkunne, the second toward Grodno, the third around Osovetz, the fourth in the direction of Lomza, the fifth in the direction of Pranyany and the sixth near Plesk and Nowo Georgiewsk. All these groups are keeping as close as possible the present roads on account of the almost impassable condition of the highways. Communications between which would be maintained by means of cavalry.

A general survey of the whole northern field of operations in northern Poland shows that the Russians have retired to a previously prepared line and are able to stop the German advance wherever it is possible for the Germans to break through the present line of defenses.

No Fears for Lemberg.

No fears are felt here for the safety of Lemberg. The town of Halicz, with its extensive fortifications, is expected to provide an effective barrier to the Austrian advance toward Lemberg. The Halicz bridge over the Dniester is the only point at which the Austrians could break through the Russian defenses. Between Halicz and Lemberg the country is a level plain, which would be most vulnerable to attack.

On account of these conditions it is believed the Austrians will deliver their attack through a country less strongly fortified.

Russian View of Losses.

"Grand Duke Nicholas lifts the curtain frankly and truthfully, as he has done on previous occasions when success has not been won," says the Rech. "The enemy's army could not withstand them. The position of our forces became difficult on account of the lack of food and the lack of shelter in the snow, which prevented the arrival of reinforcements. We had either to accept a position of disadvantage or to retreat to a position in which the loss of the army would be a catastrophe."

Corps Is Laid Open.

"The rapid retreat toward Kovno laid open one of our army corps, which was a serious and unfortunate circumstance. It was a stubbornness this glorious corps fought an enemy which outnumbered it many times and all would have been lost if those heroes who sacrificed themselves to save others."

Not Viewed as Catastrophe.

Commenting on the communication from